1990/1991 ANNUAL REPORT

THE SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL of Hamilton & District

A United Way Member Agency

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now that my two years as President of the Social Planning and Research Council have come to an end, I look back with pride at the Council's accomplishments over this period. Our document on "Criteria for Public Participation" (June 1989) was of particular importance given the growing demands for public participation in decision-making within the public sector. As chairman of the Board of Directors' meetings, I was impressed with the extent to which these criteria were the basis for reaching a consensus on a variety of difficult issues within the SPRC. These criteria are worthy of repetition:

- That the public be provided with proper information and notification of change in order to facilitate consultation with plenty of notice and lead time
- that appropriate opportunities be provided throughout and at the end of a participation process, for consultation to occur
- that reporting mechanisms be established which will provide completed and unbiased results of consultation
- that policies and programs be accessible, clear, concise and timely
- that community members be encouraged to define and meet their own needs, free from coercion and with provision of appropriate information.
- that the public body sponsoring the participation program should provide information and consultation to members of the community in order that they may develop and use their own expertise
- that notification be provided and opportunities for consultation be available, where required, in both official languages and other languages including signing for the hearing impaired.

A number of recent projects in Hamilton-Wentworth have been either initiated by, or influenced by, the Council's application of these criteria. These projects include: the street youth project, the project on diverse racial and cultural groups' access to the social service system, the "Labourhood" housing project with Local 1005, the Region's Sustainable Development Task Force and its Affordable Housing Task Force, the Child Poverty Forum, and the District Health Council's Mental Health Committee.

However, Hamilton-Wentworth still has a long way to go in the application of these criteria for public participation, especially regarding decisions about the allocation of resources for human services. Millions of taxpayers' dollars are spent each year on human services in Hamilton-Wentworth. Yet decisions about the allocation of these funds are often hidden and not discussed by an informed public. At present, most decisions about the selection of programs to receive funding are made by Provincial and Federal authorities with little local input. Would the citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth allocate these dollars differently if given a greater opportunity to participate in the decision-making process?

Four recent Provincial reports have argued for an increased role for local communities in planning and allocating resources for human services:

- the Provincial Municipal Services Review Committee (PMSSR)
- Strategies for Change (Long Term Care Reform)
- Children First (Report of the Advisory Committee on Children's Services)
- Local Decision-Making in Health and Social Services (Premier's Council on Health Strategy).

Given the Social Planning and Research Council's criteria for public participation, the Council must take the leadership in our community in reacting to these recommendations. This is consistent with the local community taking the lead, as suggested by the reports - the outcome of this process may be a redefinition of the function and the operation of the Council itself. As a first step, the SPRC is taking the lead in organizing a conference in the Fall of 1991. The purpose of this conference will be to encourage public participation on how Hamilton-Wentworth might take on increased responsibility for the allocation of dollars to human services. It is our view that the Council is in a unique position to initiate and facilitate a public participation process.

On a different, but related topic, the Council will have new opportunities to assess its relationship with two key agencies in 1991. Both the Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council and the Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth United Way have appointed new Executive Directors. It is no surprise to persons who know the work of the Social Planning and Research Council that both of these individuals are former employees of the Council. Jody Orr is the new Executive Director of

the Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth United Way. Susan Goodman is the new Executive Director of the Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council. Fortunately, incumbents in these key positions tend to have long tenures!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Council, I offer special thanks to our retiring directors - Joyce Caygill, Pat James and Linda Moore. In addition to these regular retirements, we lost Stacey Shier, David Christopherson and Susan Goodman, through resignations. The contributions of these volunteers will be missed and I thank them for their commitment to the SPRC. I know we will be able to call on them for support in different ways in the future.

On behalf of everyone associated with the SPRC, I thank the Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth United Way and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for their ongoing financial support.

The quality of an organization is founded in the people associated with it. The SPRC is extremely fortunate to have an excellent staff and volunteers. Our staff are extremely hard working, are committed to our mission, and they represent the Council in a highly professional manner throughout the community. Over the two years of my Presidency, I have been most fortunate to be associated with a very knowledgeable and dynamic Board of Directors which is supported by a number of dedicated and talented committees. Mike Pennock's leadership as Executive Director of the SPRC merits special mention.

I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be President of the Council for these last two years and I look forward to giving my continued support to the Council in its important work in this community in future years.

Larry W. Chambers, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report - the thirtieth Annual Report of the Social Planning and Research Council - is written during a time of considerable uncertainty in our community. The economy is limping through a particularly difficult recession and a number of tragic social problems are showing a stubborn resistance to everyone's best efforts. It is also a time when our Federal and Provincial Governments are in the midst of major re-appraisals of their respective roles in responding to these problems.

The Council's work during the past year has reflected these developments. In response to the economic problems which have risen to the fore, we have devoted a significant amount of our staff-time to basic issues of poverty and housing. In response to the changing roles of the Federal and Provincial Governments, we have paid particularly close attention to examining the impact of these transitions upon our community.

Minor Consultations
Twenty-percent of our staff-time was devoted to minor consultations involving less than thirty-five hours of work. During the past year, we provided assistance to over 150 groups and individuals in a variety of areas:

- provision of data related to the incidence of various problems in our community
- data analysis
- survey design
- strategic planning

The ongoing demand for these services is a reflection of our desire to facilitate a strong planning and research base within the many non-profit and voluntary organizations in the community.

Projects and Major Consultations
Forty-two percent of our staff-time was devoted to projects and major consultations and the largest share of this time (50%) was devoted to two issues - housing and poverty.

With respect to *housing* problems, we continued to devote a considerable amount of time to the Labourhood project - a Ministry of Housing funded project to increase the involvement of organized labour in the affordable housing effort. As a result

of this project, Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers of America has established a non-profit housing corporation and has been approved for an allocation of units by the Ministry of Housing. It is hoped that the direct involvement of the labour movement in non-profit housing will result in an increased acceptance of subsidized housing in the community at large.

The balance of our time in the housing area was spent in our work with the Regional Chairman's Task Force on Affordable Housing and our own Social Housing Action Committee which, in addition to supervising the Labourhood project, responded to a variety of housing issues during the past year.

With respect to *poverty and income* issues, the SPRC was instrumental in initiating a major new project related to Child Poverty in Hamilton-Wentworth - Promise the Children 2000. This effort will involve 200 to 300 local citizens who are representative of a variety of different sectors, in a series of "brainstorming" sessions to identify local initiatives which could be undertaken to diminish the causes and effects of child poverty in our community. The recommendations which result from this process, will be incorporated into a comprehensive child-poverty plan for our community.

Our ongoing support for Hamilton Against Poverty, a consumer advocacy group, has also involved a significant commitment of time, as has our ongoing involvement in a Provincial network of organizations which is committed to further reform of our Provincial welfare system.

The Council also updated its Family Budget Guide early in 1991. This publication provides the most accurate possible estimation of the minimum income required by families in our community to meet their basic needs.

In addition to these key issues, *multiculturalism* continued to receive a significant allocation of staff time, as we attempted to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of our "Diverse Racial and Cultural Groups' Access to the Social Service System" study. Our involvement in this issue will continue next year with the implementation of a review of settlement services in the Region.

The issue of *illiteracy* also received a considerable allocation of time with the completion of a review and masterplan for the Adult Basic Education Association. We also completed an extremely interesting needs assessment of the native community in conjunction with the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre.

Administrative

From an administrative perspective, we struggled with the issue of program priorities within the Council - an issue which has become even more important in the light of our "flat" budget for the next fiscal year. Traditionally, a considerable proportion of the work of the SPRC has tended to be reactive in nature - most of our consultation work, which accounts for over forty-percent of our staff-time, falls into this category.

In 1990, a Priorities Review Task Force was established within the SPRC to review our approach to priority-setting and their report has resulted in a great deal of lively debate and discussion. At the same time, our traditional differentiation between research and community development has been the focus of a very interesting review. The SPRC's organizational structure has tended to separate these two functions while, in practice, they have become increasingly integrated in the work of the staff. A working group of volunteers is now meeting to discuss the future role of community development within the Council.

Our Taxation Review Task Force has continued to meet on a regular basis in its attempt to produce a comprehensive set of policies which the SPRC can utilize in its ongoing involvement in tax reform issues.

Our Annual Meeting for 1990/1991 will mark the completion of Dr. Larry Chamber's term as President of the Council. His continuous support for innovative and creative-thinking in the development of practical solutions to community problems has been one of his most significant contributions to the SPRC and I will continue to rely upon his counsel during his term as Past-President.

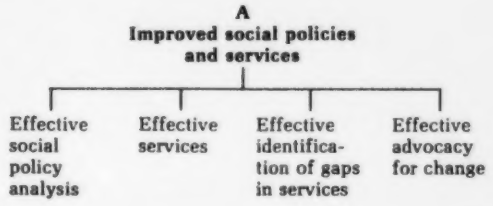
As usual, all of our activities have been guided and supported by an exceptional group of volunteers who comprise our Board of Directors and our committees. On behalf of all of the staff, I want to thank them for their commitment, their time, their energy and their many talents.

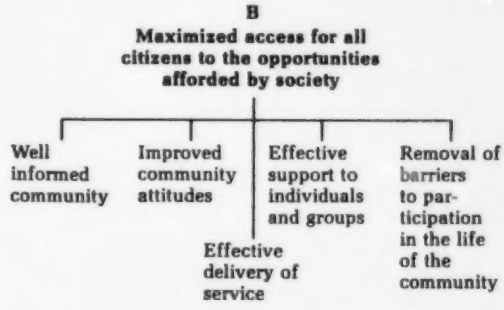
I also want to thank all of my staff colleagues at the Council for another year of stimulating excellence. In the company of such vigorous people, complacency is never a threat.

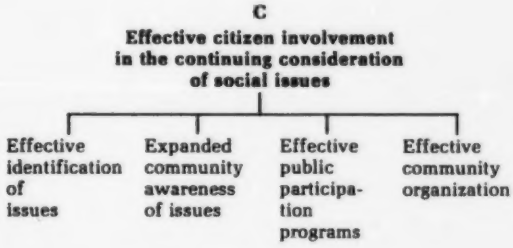
Mike Pennock

MISSION STATEMENT

As an independent voice in the community, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District will act to improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities which will result in:




B
Maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society
Well informed community
Improved community attitudes
Effective support to individuals and groups
Removal of barriers to participation in the life of the community
Effective delivery of service


C
Effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues
Effective identification of issues
Expanded community awareness of issues
Effective public participation programs
Effective community organization

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the Social Planning and Research Council is directly related to the fundamental belief of the voluntary sector - that communities have the capacity and the responsibility to identify opportunities to improve the quality of life, and to identify and resolve problems that diminish the quality of life among their citizens. Implicit within this belief, is the commitment that all citizens should have the opportunity to participate equally in this process.

The SPRC is committed to the principle that the most effective responses to community problems arise from the development of an informed consensus among the various sectors that make up the community about both the nature of the problems and the most appropriate responses.

The SPRC also believes that the most effective responses to community problems are based upon the organization of people and resources in community-based organizations.

The SPRC acts as a resource to facilitate the identification and implementation of consensus-based solutions to perceived problems. In recognizing that consensus-based solutions are not always possible, the SPRC is also prepared to advocate on behalf of specific sectors. In most cases, the Council will attempt to accomplish this function by increasing the capacity of the individual group to advocate on its own behalf. In other cases, the Council will play a leadership rather than facilitative role in advocating on behalf of groups.

This statement of philosophy has a number of important implications with respect to SPRC actions:

1) That priority will be given to assisting community-based (non-governmental) organizations.
2) That priority will be given to working with groups rather than individuals.
3) That adversarial responses to community problems would only be supported after extensive efforts at mediation and consensus-building has proved to be ineffective.
4) That the SPRC would not assist any groups who are not committed to the philosophy of equal participation among all citizens in community affairs.

AUDITORS' REPORT

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors and Members of
The Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton and District:

We have audited the balance sheet of The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District as at March 31, 1991 and the statements of financial activities operating fund and capital fund for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1991 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles described in Note 1 to the financial statement.

Pettinelli, Mastroluisi & Costanza

Hamilton, Ontario
May 21, 1991

Pettinelli, Mastroluisi &
Costanza
Chartered Accountants

NOTE: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all related notes to the financial statements, are available on request.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended March 31 1991	Year Ended March 31 1990
REVENUES:		
Support from the public	$345,395	$320,436
Support from governments	72,251	91,195
Other	30,466	35,136
TOTAL REVENUES	$448,112	$446,767
EXPENSES:		
Salaries and consultant fees	335,485	334,056
Employee health and retirement benefits	38,851	35,679
Professional fees	1,025	1,025
Supplies	10,446	12,670
Telephone	3,415	3,492
Postage and shipping	5,143	5,163
Rent and facility insurance	27,790	27,505
Public relations	90	2,218
Local transportation (staff)	5,687	5,242
Conferences	3,482	2,074
Volunteer expenses	1,071	467
Orginizational dues and periodicals	1,528	1,250
Equipment and maintenance contracts	6,435	5,671
Staff replacement costs	80	-
Other administration costs	7,263	9,854
Project closeouts	-	9
TOTAL EXPENSES	447,791	446,375
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	321	392
Less: Amount repayable to United Way	-	-
	321	392
Less: Transferred to capital fund	321	392
	$ -	$ -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1990/91
OFFICERS

Dr. Larry W. Chambers, President
Marvin Caplan, Vice-President
Peter Wegener, Treasurer
Urmas Soomet, Past President
Michael W. Pennock, Secretary

HONORARY SOLICITOR
William N. Callaghan, Q.C.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

J. Nelson Allan	Dick Capling
Marjorie Baskin	Craig Fraser
Judge T. A. Beckett	Hubert Martin, Q.C.
Archbishop J. Bothwell	Charles T. McNair
Anthony Butler	David Seldon

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 1991	**Term Ending 1992**
Dr. Mo Ali	Marvin Caplan
Joyce Caygill	Bill Fuller
Dr. Larry W. Chambers	George Gliva
David Christopherson*	David Godley
Pat James	Dr. Wayne Lewchuk
George McLauchlin	Bro. Richard MacPhee
Linda Moore	Mary Ann Seldon
Norman Preece	Ken Stone
Stacey Shier*	Dr. J. Doug Welland
Peter Wegener	
Alan Whittle	

Term Ending 1993

Rob Alexander	Marie-Louise Kelday
Sandy Bozak	Paul McWhinnie
Gwen Davidson	Norm Westbury
Susan Goodman*	Dave Wilson
Danny Davids	

CONSULTANT
Ed Smee

ADVISORS

Norma Walsh	Jody Orr
(Regional Social Services	(United Way)

*Resigned during the year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Executive:	Marvin Caplan, Chairperson Dr. Larry W. Chambers George Gliva Urmas Soomet Peter Wegener
Finance:	Peter Wegener, Chairperson Marvin Caplan Dr. Larry W. Chambers Urmas Soomet
Personnel:	Urmas Soomet, Chairperson Marvin Caplan Dr. Larry W. Chambers Peter Wegener
Nominating:	Urmas Soomet, Chairperson Dr. Mo Ali Carole Capling Mary Lou Dingle, Q.C. Bill Fuller Susan Goodman Jean Jones Judith Johnson Mary Ann Seldon

STANDING COMMITTEES

Research Advisory Committee:
George Gliva, Chairperson

Dave Brown*	Shelley Rempel
Mike DeVillaer	Doug Sider
Marion Emo	Lyn Stewart
Rita Lee-Irvine	Dr. Wayne Warry
Nick Merola	Peter Wegener
Dr. Julia O'Connor	Bob Whiting

Consultants:

Dr. Larry W. Chambers	Dr. Roman March

Community Development Advisory Committee:
Currently inactive

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Diverse Racial and Cultural Groups' Access to Services Advisory Committee
Chai Chu Thompson, Chairperson*

Sharon Bonham	Annie Perez
Josephine D'Amico	Santokh Pooni
Anna Maria Figueredo	Nu Quach
Linda Jenkins	Pat Simpson
Teresa Melcer	Marlene Thomas
Paul Myers	Ramzi Twal

Multicultural Policy Sub-Committee

Josephine D'Amico	Bill Fuller
Anna Maria Figueredo	Ed Smee

Social Housing Action Committee
Mary Ann Seldon, Chairperson

Winnie Capriotti	Bill Janssen
Maggie Fischbuch	Lesley Prince
Rosemary Foulds	Paula Randazzo
Bill Fuller	Terri-Lee Seeley*
Ellen Howard	Janet Surmanski
Andrea Horwath	Alan Whittle

Consultant: Gail La Croix

Sustainable Development Sub-Committee

Bill Fuller	Wayne Lewchuk
David Godley	

Taxation Review Task Force
Urmas Soomet, Chairperson

Dr. Wayne Lewchuk	Norman Preece
Paul McWhinnie	Dr. J. Douglas Welland

Transportation Sub-Committee
Norman Preece, Chairperson

Marvin Caplan	Ed Smee
Marie-Louise Kelday	

*Resigned during the year

STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director:	Mike Pennock
Research Director:	Gloria DeSantis
Community Development Co-ordinator:	Don Jaffray
Research Associate:	Caroline Ball
Research Assistant:	Rosemary Trowbridge*
Executive Assistant:	Mary Swan
Research Secretary:	Shurl Kocman
Bookkeeper/Secretary:	Caroline Eyk
Volunteer Support Staff:	Kay German Hilda Nelligan
Project Staff 1990/91:	Brian Bodo Sharon Bonham Joanne Chlan Rosemary Foulds Linda Jenkins Sherry Jevons Paula Randazzo Kevin Sandy
Student Staff:	
McMaster University	Kirstin Knieriem

*Resigned during the year

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Social Planning and Research Council would like to thank its major funders: the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for their continued support of the work of the Council. A special thanks goes to the friends of the SPRC for their donations in 1990/91. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission; and the Ministry of Housing for special project funding. During the past twelve months, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Hamilton Foundation, the Adult Basic Education Association, Hamilton Public Library, and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre on a contract basis.